

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-15, and 17-19 are pending in the application. Claims 6, 7, and 16 were cancelled by the previous response mailed June 9, 2003 (Paper No. 8). All pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,848,396 (hereinafter "Gerace"). Applicant thanks the Examiner for the acknowledgement that the previously cited Barrett reference does not teach or suggest embodiments of the present invention. Applicant respectfully asserts that the newly-cited Gerace reference also fails to teach or suggest embodiments of the present invention, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the pending claims in view of the arguments presented herein and in accordance with 37 CFR §1.112.

Applicant has amended each of the independent claims to more particularly emphasize the automatic adjustment of network preference information in a browser associated with a user device. That is, as described in the specification as filed, in some embodiments, a browser or other software can reconfigure itself (automatically or without user intervention) to reflect network preference information. For example, a user's browser may "monitor and analyze network activity for particular characteristics important to the user (such as, for example, the amount of time spent at each Web site, etc.). This allows the user or other entity to prepare the user device to automatically establish preferences in a manner desirable to the user." (see, e.g., pg. 14, lines 25-31).

Different "characteristics of interest" can be monitored by the browser (e.g., such as the amount of time spent at a Web site, etc.). One example given is "if the characteristic of interest identified...is the amount of time spent at each network site, and the data collection...indicates that the user spends most of her time at www.bloomberg.com, then processing...will establish www.bloomberg.com as a preferred network site" (pg. 15, line 30 to pg. 16, line 2). "This may involve, for example, modifying the configuration of the user's browser software or other application software to reflect the new or updated preference. For example, the preferred

network address may be added to a list of 'Favorites' or it may result in the network address being made the user's default home or starting page" (pg. 16, lines 5-9).

Applicant respectfully asserts that Gerace fails to teach or suggest embodiments as recited in claims 1, 12, 18, and 19 (as amended). In particular, Gerace fails to teach or suggest a method, device, code or system that includes automatically reconfiguring a browser by adjusting network preference information associated with a user.

The Examiner states that Gerace "discloses a method and apparatus for profiling Internet users and modifying their experience dynamically. For each user, the system creates a user profile from the viewing habits of the user. ... In response to all of the information collected about the user, the system displays information to him/her in a manner customized according to his/her preferences." (Office Action at pages 2-3). Applicant respectfully asserts that Gerace is more like the previously-cited Barrett reference than the present invention. That is, Gerace is a back-end or server-side system that operates to compile user profiles and to cause the display of customized Web pages to individual users (see, e.g., col. 4, lines 1-11 and 22-29). The program described by Gerace resides on a central or Web server and must be accessed, via the Internet, by a user (Col. 4, lines 1-11, 22-29; Col. 6, lines 46-52; Col. 16, lines 27-29; Col. 20, lines 46-48). Once a user logs onto the Gerace server, a *customized "Home Page"* and other *customized web pages* may be provided to the user (Col. 10, lines 52-58; Col. 14, lines 5-11). Some user actions are monitored by the Gerace server to further *customize web pages* and to target advertisements (Col. 6, lines 58+).

A server-side system that customizes content for users is not the same as a system that automatically reconfigures a browser on a client device.

Applicants respectfully assert that the Gerace reference does not describe a system which automatically reconfigures a browser. As an illustrative example, pursuant to embodiments of the present invention, if a user frequently visits the www.uspto.gov website, her browser will automatically reconfigure so that www.uspto.gov is indicated in the user's "favorites", allowing the user to quickly visit the site without needing to type in the URL. Gerace is completely

unable to personalize or reconfigure the user's browser. Instead, in Gerace's system, the user must visit Gerace's Web site. Based on information collected on the user's interactions with Gerace's Web site, Gerace may modify Web pages and tailor them to match assumed interests of the user. As an analogy, Gerace could allow the automatic creation of a personalized home page similar to the home pages available to users who establish accounts with www.my.yahoo.com. The personalized home pages are hosted on a central server, and there is no automatic reconfiguration of the user's browser.

Put another way, embodiments of the present invention could work in concert with the Gerace system. A user whose browser is configured pursuant to embodiments of the present invention, and who also frequently visits a personalized home page established using Gerace's techniques, could have his browser automatically reconfigured so that the personalized home page is indicated in the user's browser preferences.

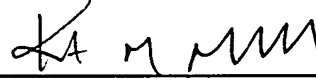
Applicant respectfully asserts that Gerace fails to anticipate (or render obvious) embodiments as recited in independent claims 1, 12, 18, and 19 at least because Gerace fails to teach or suggest automatically reconfiguring a browser by adjusting network preference information associated with a user. Applicant respectfully requests that the §102(b) rejection of independent claims 1, 12, 18, and 19 be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-5, 8-11, 13-15, and 17 are believed patentable at least as depending from patentable base claims (claims 1, 12, 18, and 19), and for reasons similar to those presented in conjunction with independent claims 1, 12, 18, and 19 herein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of dependent claims 2-5, 8-11, 13-15, and 17-18.

Applicant respectfully asserts that each of the claims is patentable over the cited reference. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejections of the pending claims be withdrawn and that all pending claims be allowed. Applicant's silence with respect to other comments made in the Office Action does not imply agreement with those comments. If

any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at 203-972-0081.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

Kurt M. Maschoff
Registration No. 38,235
Buckley, Maschoff & Talwalkar LLC
Five Elm Street
New Canaan, CT 06840
(203) 972-0081